

Notice to all State Ethics Liaisons and Ethics Compliance Officers

April 20, 2006

To State Ethics Liaisons and Ethics Compliance Officers:

Greetings

Since the hiring of a permanent Executive Director in December 2005, the Connecticut Office of State Ethics (OSE) has been working diligently on a comprehensive education and communications plan that involves each of you. We are delighted to report that a working plan is now in place, and this is just the first of many substantive communications that you will receive throughout the remainder of 2006. The OSE staff looks forward to an interactive and supportive relationship with you and your agencies. First and foremost, we are here to assist you in your statutory obligations.

Save the Date – June 6 & 7, 2006

Of initial importance is addressing the July 1, 2006 annual training deadline that many of you face. Per Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-101 rr (a), “Each state agency and quasi-public agency that is a party to a large state construction or procurement contract or is planning such a contract shall appoint an ethics compliance officer...At least annually, each ethics compliance officer shall provide ethics training to agency personnel involved in contractor selection, evaluation and supervision. Such training shall include a review of current ethics laws and regulations and a discussion of ethics issues concerning contracting.”

OSE has scheduled two workshop dates in June to address this deadline, introduce OSE staff and services and provide all Ethics Liaisons and Ethics Compliance Officers with a comprehensive overview of the plans for the year ahead. Please mark your calendar now – OSE will be holding an ***Educational Workshop for State Agency Ethics Liaisons/Ethics Compliance Officers on June 6 and June 7. For your convenience, you may choose either date, as both sessions will be identical.*** Details regarding workshop location and times will follow in May.

Important Discussion on § 1-84 (q) at April 27, 2006 Board Meeting

More immediate is an upcoming discussion on General Statutes Section 1-84 (q). At its next regular meeting, the Citizen’s Ethics Advisory Board will, among other things, interpret this

section, which prohibits public officials and state employees from accepting, directly or indirectly, gifts to the state from regulated donors. The meeting will take place at 20 Trinity Street in Hartford at 1:00 p.m. on April 27, 2006. Additional meeting details are available on the OSE's Web site, www.ct.gov/ethics. As will now occur monthly, this decision and any others will be summarized for you in a regular electronic communication such as this one. These summaries are also available on the OSE's Web site.

Ongoing Communication

The OSE applauds your active participation in ethics in the state and looks forward to playing a substantive role in your efforts. As this is my first attempt to reach all appropriate individuals, please contact me directly at Meredith.Trimble@po.state.ct.us or 860-566-4472 if this message has reached you in error, or there has been a change in the Ethics Liaison or Ethics Compliance Officer in your agency. Our efforts can only be complete if we receive your assistance in reaching each and every appropriate individual.

Look for the next OSE communication in May. Until then, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or to simply introduce yourself. And make sure to check our Web site for Board meeting details, plain English guides to the Code of Ethics and much more.

Sincerely,

Meredith Trimble
Director of Communications
Office of State Ethics
860-566-4472